

STANHOPE
Urban Sanitary District.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1894,

BY

JOHN GRAY, M.B.

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1895.

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To the Stanhope Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit to you my Report for 1894:—

Vital Statistics.

	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.	Consumption.	Other Lung Diseases.
1894	1,864	26·2	15·5	4·2	102	1·0	1·6
1893	1,864	29·5	15·5	1·0	109	1·0	2·1

Deaths.—During 1894, there were registered 42 deaths, 13 of which were of persons not belonging to the district (viz., 2 from St. John's District, 3 from Wolsingham, 3 from Tow Law, 1 from Staindrop, 1 from Alston, 1 from Norfolk, 1 from Ireland, and one, a navvy, who died as the result of an accident), leaving 29 for the district, a rate of 15·5 per 1,000, the same as last year. Twelve deaths occurred in the Weardale Union Workhouse.

The following are the ages at death :—Under 1 year, 5 ; 1 and under 5, 3 ; 5 and under 15, 5 ; 15 and under 25, 3 ; 25 and under 65, 12 ; over 65, 14. Nine were seventy years of age or over.

Infectious Disease.—There were 8 deaths from Infectious Diseases, viz., 5 from Typhoid and 3 from Whooping Cough.

Infant Mortality.—Five deaths occurred in children under one year, or 10·2 per 100 births registered, during 1894. Of these, 1 died from Jaundice, 1 from Intestinal Catarrh, 1 from Convulsions, and 2 from Whooping Cough.

Phthisis.—Consumption caused 4 deaths, 2 in persons not belonging to the district, leaving 2 for Stanhope, or a rate of 1·0 per 1,000.

Other Lung Diseases caused 5 deaths. Of these, 2 belonged to other districts, leaving 3, or a rate of 1·6 per 1,000, for the district.

Births.—There were registered during 1894 the births of 28 males and 21 females, a total of 49, as against 55 in 1893, 50 in 1892, and 55 in 1891.

Tables A and B are attached.

Infectious Diseases.

Typhoid Fever.—An epidemic of Typhoid Fever occurred in the earlier months of the year, which formed the subject of a special report. In this report it was pointed out that the epidemic had three distinct points of origin, traceable in each locality to former cases in the latter part of the previous year.

Four cases occurred in one house in Bolton's Row, Butts, the first case commencing on January 30th. At Arnison's Cottages, in one of the front tenements, there were 6 cases, with 3 deaths, the first case appearing on March 5th. Another fatal case began on May 14th, in a back tenement, and 2 slight cases occurred in June, in two front tenements ; making 9 cases, with 4 deaths, a mortality of nearly 50 per cent. of cases attacked in this block. One fatal case was notified on March 19th from East Lane, in a house where other cases were supposed to have occurred.

The Sanitary conditions in the different places were fully reported on to the Authority at the time (*vide* Report Book).

In the Special Report attention was drawn to the need of :—

- (1) Some proper means of isolating infectious cases.
- (2) The adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.
- (3) A disinfecting apparatus.

A combination with the neighbouring Authority for isolation purposes, as recommended by Dr. Wilson (L.G.I.) in 1893, is very desirable, more especially as the County Council has power to assist Sanitary Authorities who desire such a provision. Stanhope, Bishop Auckland, and Southwick are the only Urban Sanitary Districts in the county that still remain unprotected through the non-adoption of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act. As regards disinfection, it is still left to the householders to finally disinfect their houses, bedding, &c., but during the typhoid epidemic some of the bedding used was burned by order of the Authority, and under my own supervision.

Whooping Cough.—Epidemic began in first week of October, but the disease was prevalent in the neighbouring village of Frosterley a fortnight before. It continued very prevalent during November, becoming less so towards the end of December. Several adults suffered. Three deaths were attributed to it in October—two in children under one year, and one in a child of 16 months.

General Sanitation.

River Pollution.—There is still an overflow of sewage at Butts Ford, more especially after wet weather. Refuse and road scrapings are still deposited in the river at Horn Hall.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.—Several of the larger and most unsatisfactory privy middens in the district have been done away with or altered, but there are still a few sadly in want of improvement. Six houses have no ashpit, and two have no privy. Many of the difficulties and, in some cases, nuisances arising in this connection would be obviated by your Authority undertaking the systematic and regular scavenging of the district.

Sewerage and House Drainage.—I would beg to remind your Authority of the recommendations thereon, by Dr. Wilson, L.G.I., in December, 1893:—"Socketed pipes should be substituted in all cases for old stone culverts, and efficiently trapped earthenware gullies should be provided in connection with all drains. The thorough ventilation of the sewers, the provision of means for flushing, and the proper disposal of the sewage at the outfall, all require the consideration of the Authority. In these matters they will do well to take the advice of a competent engineer."

Urinals.—Public conveniences are much needed for the district. The need of them is admitted on all hands, the want of them complained of by many.

Lodging-Houses.—The only house used as such was closed in March, but only after legal proceedings had been taken.

New Buildings.—Three new houses have been completed during the year, with drainage on satisfactory principles. Other four are in course of erection.

Water Supply.—The available supply has been doubled, the new supply being turned on on New Year's Day, 1895. A new additional 3in. main has been laid in East Lane connecting with Back Lane. The main from the West End Bridge to Square foot, with a branch to the Square itself, has been laid with new metal pipes, completed in December.

Bye-Laws.—The present Bye-Laws are quite behind present-day requirements. A new series based on the Model Bye-Laws issued by the Local Government Board should be adopted for Regulation of Nuisances, Common Lodging-Houses, New Streets and Buildings, and Slaughter-Houses.

Dairies and Cow-Sheds.—Regulations for the management of such might be drawn up with benefit.

Inspections and Results.—Two systematic house-to-house inspections have been made by me and the Inspector of Nuisances, which have been reported to the Authority, with my recommendations thereon. Twenty-two written notices have been given and attended to. No account has been kept of verbal notices and inspections made by your Inspector.

Sanitary Improvements during 1894.—Six old privy-middens have been reconstructed. Two privies have been replaced by water-closets. Old stone drains to 10 houses have been replaced by socketed pipes, &c. At Arnison's Cottages a new system of automatic flushing latrines, with small ash-pit, has been put in place of old privy-midden arrangement, the drain from the yard (which has been enlarged) being relaid with six-inch metal pipes, with lead joints, leading from a proper yard gulley.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. GRAY.

Stanhope,

January 14th, 1895.



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